Joint Precision Airdrop System (JPADS) ACTD

High altitude, precision airdrop is expected to be a key enabling technology for the Objective Force. It will facilitate rapid strategic and tactical deployment of the Objective Force and just-in-time resupply to most locations throughout the world. Current sustainment distribution is an indirect, multi-complex, resource compounding system, which is tied to known high threat choke points (APODS/SPODS/DZs & GLOC) reaching supply points in days or weeks thus almost incapable of responding to a dynamic operational & tactical environment. Based on the fact that we are a projection-based force, the Combatant Commander requires the capability to SUSTAIN combat power from strategic distances into a very dynamic and dispersed battlespace, effectively and efficiently to enable decisive operational superiority.

The Precision and Extended Glide Airdrop System (PEGASYS), which is a family of variant weight systems, will allow conventional military aircraft to accurately drop sensors, munitions, and/or a huge range of supplies onto the battlefield while minimizing risk to the aircraft and the possibility of enemy detection of aircraft drop zones. The system will use actuators, Global Positioning System guidance and gliding parachute technologies to deliver cargoes with near pinpoint accuracy.

The 10,000 lb. PEGASYS is a joint US Army/US Air Force proposed FY04 ACTD initiative that provides a seamless and flexible system that will provide equipment Resupply capabilities to meet the dynamic operational requirements of the warfighter, world wide NLT 24 hours from the request. This seamless distribution system bypasses traditional high threat choke points; reduces battlespace logprint and detection (user/craft); and provides direct, dependable, fast, flexible, fort-to-foxhole, precision resupply. This concept proposes a joint 10K lb. PEGASYS solution that: focuses USAF & USA programs and initiatives on meeting joint requirements; enables global direct supply delivery anytime/anywhere; increases crew/user (ground & air)/craft/cargo survivability; reduces ground and air battlespace detection (altitude/offset/accuracy); allows en-route mission/destination changes and compensates CARP error; and permits multi-load/multi-DZ/ multi-CARP.

Numerous components of this ACTD along with additional state-of-the-art technologies will be demonstrated at the Precision Airdrop Technology Conference and Demonstration (PATCAD) scheduled for 3 - 7 Nov 03 at Yuma Proving Ground, AZ. A VIP day is scheduled for 6 Nov 03.

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